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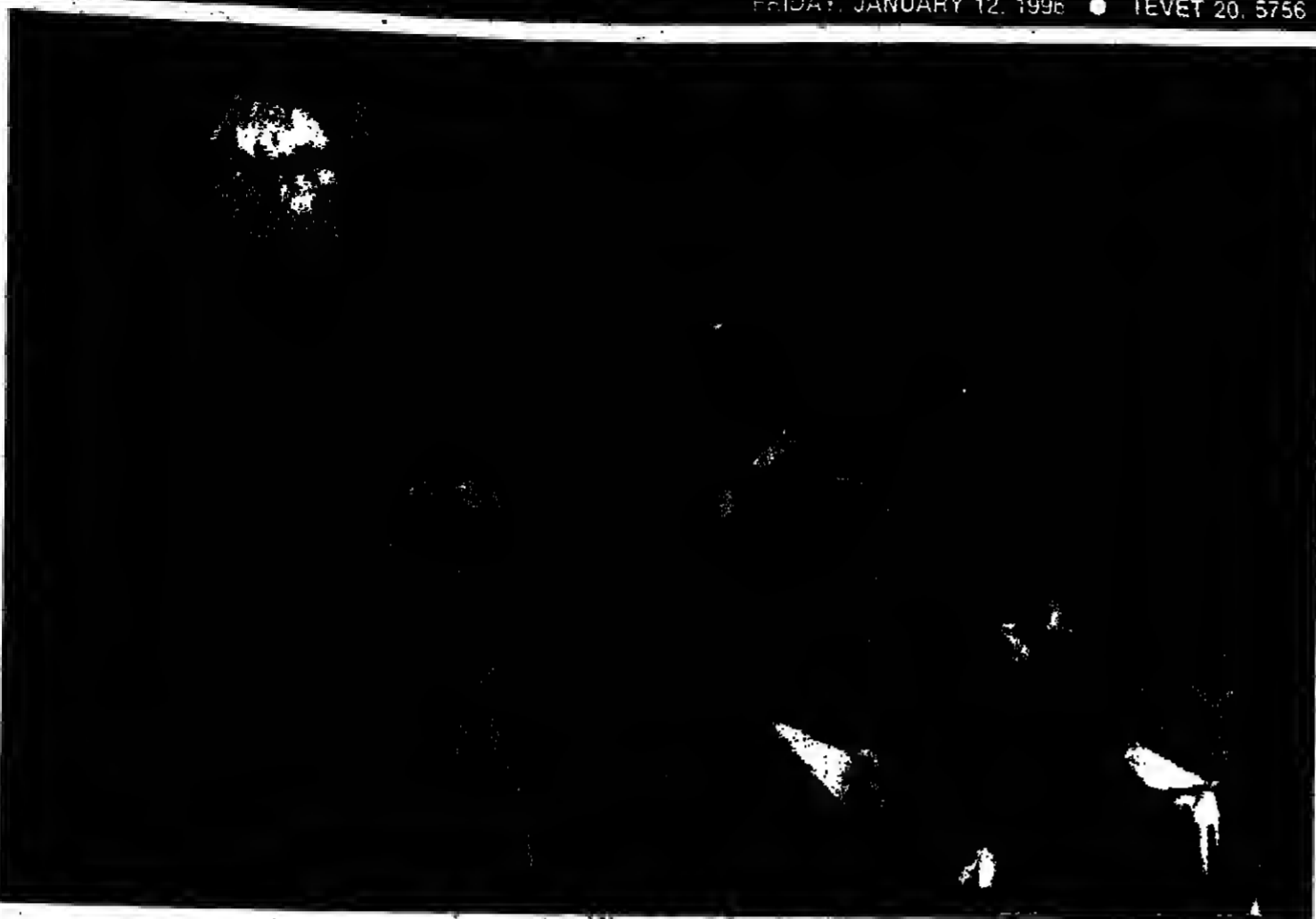
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German Chancellor Helmut Kohl shakes hands with PM Shimon Peres at yesterday's mass for Francois Mitterrand at Notre Dame Cathedral...

Partnership with Syria still uncertain - Barak

Christopher returns today after Damascus visit

ISRAELI negotiators appear to be toning down expectations of an early breakthrough with Syria...

BATSHEVA TSUR, LIAT COLLINS, and news agencies

Plantation, and when Christopher perhaps returns here after that.

Golan vigil today, South Lebanon quiet, Page 3

"It is too early to know whether we have a substantive partner with the Syrians," Foreign Minister Ehud Barak told reporters yesterday...

"I am cautiously optimistic," Barak added, "but we have to wait and see what will happen at the next round of talks at Wye

discussions have not yet started on vital issues like the border, security arrangements, water sources and a timetable.

"In the next round, we would like to discuss security issues, water issues and economic issues," a senior Israeli diplomat said yesterday.

The diplomat told AP that "clearly, to move the discussions forward, the Syrian delegation needs a mandate to do so."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Christopher wants "to move the process forward" in his meeting with Assad

(Continued on Page 3)

'Karmi Gillon is outgoing GSS head'

Blasts Shamgar Commission over leaks

THE name of the outgoing head of the General Security Service is Karmi Gillon, 45, The Washington Post revealed yesterday.

Channel 1's Mabat news reported last night that Gillon's successor, Adm. (res.) Ami Ayalon, is to meet with Prime Minister Shimon Peres today. It is possible, the report said, that he may reconsider his decision to accept the post.

Former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar strongly rejected Gillon's complaints about leaks from the commission investigating prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, which Shamgar headed.

Gillon's complaints were detailed in a letter he sent Shamgar

earlier this week. Shamgar chose to respond in a public statement, released by the Justice Ministry and addressed directly to the GSS chief.

"The media reports on the content of the commission's hearings, or what is purported to be the content, are in no way coming from the commission or its administration," Shamgar said.

"As you recall, we held a discussion on this subject [of leaks] with you and the police inspector-general," Shamgar said.

"If it appears to you, as you say in your letter, [that] the media gave incorrect reports on the commission's hearings [that] you

believe cause you damage, this is between you and the media," Shamgar said.

"It is in your hands to show the writers of these things that they are incorrect," Shamgar said.

"The commission has no intention of responding to the different media reports.

"To the heart of the matter, it must be remembered that the commission will discuss and decide on matters only with regard to the relevant facts, as they are presented."

The statement was released yesterday after the commission wrapped up a week of hearings, with a marathon session at which the deputy GSS chief, who Gillon

(Continued on Page 3)

Peres meets Yemeni leader at Mitterrand funeral

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres and Yemen's President Gen. Ali Abdullah Saleh held a surprise meeting yesterday in Paris, where they were attending funeral services for Francois Mitterrand, an Israeli official said.

Saleh had agreed to meet Peres on condition the encounter was not photographed, Army Radio said.

The meeting took place at a buffet lunch at French President Jacques Chirac's Elysee Palace after the funeral services, said Yarden Vatikai, Peres's spokesman.

"He said that at the moment we sign a peace agreement with

the Syrians, he believes that Yemen may follow in the same direction," Peres told reporters.

Peres promised the Yemeni leader that normalization with Israel could proceed slowly, the radio said.

Yemen, however, denied that the meeting took place.

The official SABA news agency said the meeting was held in a private setting.

(Continued on Page 3)

Court: Terminally ill pilot can opt against life-support system

RAINE MARCUS

IN a precedent-setting verdict, the Tel Aviv District Court ruled yesterday that a former IAF pilot suffering from a terminal disease will not have to be connected to life support machines against his will.

"As long as the issue is an adult who is of sane mind, with lucid thoughts, his wishes to live or die should be honored," Judge Moshe Telgam ruled yesterday.

The former IAF fighter jet pilot, 47-year-old Itai Arad, was diagnosed in 1992 as suffering from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, after the New York Yankee baseball star who died from it in 1941.

The court's ruling allows a life support system, petitioned by the

(Continued on Page 3)

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Vertical text on the left margin: e Jerusalem Post, AND THE WORLD, MKs slam bu Medein's Holocaust comparison

# Anti-gov't protest planned

## First mass right-wing rally since Rabin assassination

FOR the first time since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, a coalition of right-wing groups is organizing a mass rally with a decidedly anti-government tone, to take place in Jerusalem next week.

Fliers were distributed yesterday which read, "On January 20, on Shabbat of all days, elections will take place for the Palestinian Authority. Eastern Jerusalem residents will elect and be elected to the Palestinian government."

"Foreign representatives and Palestinian representatives will roam freely around Jerusalem to make sure that residents of sovereign Jerusalem will be able to 'vote freely.' The city will be covered in green, black and red flags, and pictures of Arafat will fly high. This is how

the Peres government preserves a united Jerusalem."

The fliers then call on people to join a mass demonstration in the capital on the night of the elections.

A rally that attracted just over 1,000 people was held near the exit from Gilo on December 25 to protest the withdrawal from Bethlehem, but that was organized at the last minute. Earlier in the month, a rally supporting the national religious movement - not specifically an anti-government protest - was held in Tel Aviv.

Palestinian officials have protested the dem-

onstrations, and have called the ban on public election rallies as discriminatory.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby denied the charge. "The election procedures were decided by a joint Palestinian-Israeli committee, and among the decisions was that no election rallies would be allowed in eastern Jerusalem," he said.

"The Palestinian representative on the committee, Saeh'Erekat, agreed to this," Ben-Ruby said.

The spokesman said a permit would be given to the right-wing groups to hold a demonstration on the evening of January 20.

He added, however, that "police will not allow any interference with the election process."

HERB KEINON  
and BILL HUTMAN

## Arab parliaments hope to stop US Embassy move

THE Arab Parliamentary Union urged the US Congress yesterday to annul a vote to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The union, which represents all Arab parliaments, said in a statement after a one-day meeting in Amman that the congressional vote could hamper Arab-Israeli peace efforts. (AP)

## Winning numbers and cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, jack of hearts, ace of diamonds and eight of clubs.

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 715360 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 299062 won a car.

Tickets numbered 154281, 805544, 819449, 600404, 131175, 830948, 212291 and 559526 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 37253, 76945, 70667, 91771, 77959, 08843, 24226, 53402, 74990, 02299, 35289, 09785, 87188, 94591, 16844 98644, 86858, 43418 and 64534 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 767, 565, 605, 219, and 346 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 50, 46, 34, 87 and 16 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 1 and 57 won NIS 8.

## CORRECTION

The photo pictured with Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Page 2 of Wednesday's edition was Marcello Sturigo, the deputy chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Argentinean parliament, and not as stated.

## Women voters: An uncertain factor

PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS '96

JON IMMANUEL

THE meeting was fixed for 10, but the candidates arrived late, and in reverse order of political celebrity - nephew Rana Nashashibi, 10:10; Zahira Kamal, a leading women's activist, at 11; and finally, Hanan Ashrawi at 11:15.

The village women in black robes and white head scarves who attended the Wednesday meeting in Issawiya - a few hocks and a world away from Jerusalem's Hyatt Regency Hotel - did not mind waiting, as they listened to Nashashibi, in her loog hair and modern clothes, expound on day-care centers.

When Ashrawi arrived in a two-piece suit, looking like she was attending a peace-talks session, there was a murmur of deference. Everyone recognized her face.

Ashrawi, the spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace talks, compared the merits of her team with the PLO Oslo team, citing the latter's lack of concern with details. The women appeared flattered to be addressed so familiarly on the big political issues.

The women were traditional Moslems. Ashrawi, a Christian, is running as an independent. Kamal, a long-time women's activist, represents EIDA, Fatah's social-democratic partner. Nashashibi, at 33, is one of youngest candidates of the People's Party (former communists), the best-represented group after Fatah. The three are rivals, but all are equally eager to bring out the women's vote, one of the great unknown factors in next Saturday's council election.

"I hear from many women that they will be voting for women," Nashashibi said, buoyed by polls which show more than 70 percent are prepared to do so.

There are 27 women candidates. Women are a majority of the Palestinian population, but less than 4% of the candidates, which is why many feel like a disadvantaged minority.

While most men represent the conservative interests of their clans, the women can be numbered among the progressive forces in Palestinian society, demanding action on issues that go to the core of democracy - equal opportunity, freedom to choose marriage partners, the right to inherit, the right to higher education, and, by implication, the right to choose their own political representatives independent of their husbands' choices.

Polls show that women are less well-disposed than men toward the peace process. More than half

the women candidates also represent moderate opposition forces, identified with the People's Party, Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi's Movement for Building Democracy, or Fatah Intifada activists. But even those strongly identified with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat - like Inissar Wazir, the widow of Abu Jihad - take a strong position on women's issues.

Samira Khalil opposes the peace process altogether and is running against Arafat for council president, appearing daily in a different Palestinian town. Tomorrow she is due in Gaza. Her independent decision to enter a contest in which men feared to tread is likely to embolden women voters.

"I don't think you can accurately predict the result of these elections. Women's fight for democracy will be as fierce as the fight to end occupation," said Nashashibi.

This is the third in a series on the upcoming Palestinian elections.



A Palestinian woman fires an AK-47 rifle into the air at a mass rally yesterday in Nablus honoring terrorist Yihye Ayyash, 'the Engineer,' who was killed last Friday. (Reuters)

## Nablus governor praises Ayyash at rally

AT a Hamas rally in Nablus yesterday, the PLO governor, Mahmoud Alloul, eulogized Yihye Ayyash, who was responsible for the deaths of more than 50 Israelis in suicide bomb attacks.

The rally was the third and largest this week, after previous ones in Halhoul and Bethlehem.

JON IMMANUEL  
and news agencies

The Israeli flag was burned and many swore revenge.

"We make an oath to our martyr, the engineer of the revolution, the martyr of Palestine and of the Islamic nation, to keep

working until all our rights are restored," Alloul said.

Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghoshah vowed by phone from Amman that Ayyash's death would be avenged.

Meanwhile, Hamas prisoners, some of whom had killed Palestinians, were among the 200 released at Nahal Oz in Gaza and in other Palestinian towns yesterday, bringing to 1,000 those released this week.

"Some" of those released had served less than four years of life sentences.

The conditions of release included signing a pledge not to engage in violence and not to leave Palestinian-controlled territory until the end of their sentences.

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# Vigils planned today against Golan pullout

OPPOSITION leaders and heads of the Golan Residents Committee agreed yesterday on a wide-spread campaign, including demonstrations at road junctions throughout the country, to rally support against withdrawal from the Golan.

DAVID RUDGE

among the opposition members who attended yesterday's meeting.

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu called on the government to "go to the people" if it wants a mandate for an agreement with Syria that would require a withdrawal from the Golan.

Committee spokesman Uri Heitner said protest vigils would be staged at 60 road junctions today, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Two former heads of the Northern Command, Yitzhak Mordechai and Yossi Peled, were

against withdrawal. Both Mordechai and Peled stressed the vital security importance of the Golan, which no guarantees or early warning stations, no matter how sophisticated, could replace. Eitan maintained that tanks on the Golan, just two hours away from Damascus, are the real deterrent against war and are worth more than a thousand peace agreements. Netanyahu said that withdrawal would only strengthen Syria.

Officers who have demanded that steps be taken to improve security for Rahin and other ministers when it was determined there was a real threat of attack by Jewish extremists.

One of those steps was to beef up manpower in the VIP Protection Division. GSS officers told the commission this week that a request for additional funding to pay for the extra manpower was held up by the Finance Ministry.

Starting next week, D., the former head of the service's Protection Department, is slated to begin presenting his defense. He is being represented by attorney Uri Simin.

Sources close to the commission stressed that the resignation

and security minister Moshe Shaleh.

Few other new witnesses are scheduled to be heard. Instead, the sources said, the commission will concentrate on hearing the defenses of the GSS and the police officers that it warned may be found responsible for the failures leading to the assassination.

D., who begins his defense Sunday, was accused by the commission of "not acting as needed in preparing the Protection Department for the threat of an attack on the prime minister."

D. resigned his post immediately after the assassination, but he still believes that he has been unfairly accused by the commission, the sources said.

## BARAK

(Continued from Page 1)

He declined to say whether Christopher agrees with Israeli leaders that the delegation should be broadened to include military experts and economists, but said the issue of "who should be in the room" is high on Christopher's agenda for the meeting.

Christopher will return here later today.

Damascus Radio described the US role in the peace process as "more powerful and intensive" than in the past, and said Syria hopes to reach a settlement with Israel.

Barak stressed that Israel would not be tied down to any date as far as negotiations with Damascus were concerned, saying that peace needed careful deliberations and could not be achieved "at any price." He is cautiously optimistic, but there is no deadline and there will not be peace at any price.

Observers said that there appeared to be a difference of opinion between Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who has hinted at a possible breakthrough with Damascus, and Barak, who seemed to be taking a more cautious line. Earlier, a senior source stressed that Israel had not given the Syrians any assurances with regard to the depth of the

withdrawal.

"The formula put forward by Yitzhak Rabin that the depth of the withdrawal is still not guideline," he said. "The Syrians have not received from us any political commitment with regard to the extent of a withdrawal. It would be foolhardy to make such a promise in advance. That is our best negotiating card."

The source totally discounted media reports that Israel had agreed to withdraw to the borders of June 4, 1967. "There has been no offer - secretly or otherwise - of any withdrawal line," he stressed.

"What we are doing, both sides, is feeling the other side out. The Syrians are very systematic. We are going through our positions, subject by subject. In some cases the Syrians are able to provide answers at the negotiating table and in other cases they have to wait for a response from Assad."

Sarid is doubtful that even a declaration of principles could be drawn up with Syria this year.

"I will be most surprised if we reach a peace agreement with Syria in 1996," he said. "The main questions are still ahead of us. I'm always prepared for pleasant surprises, and we will do our utmost, but I doubt it's possible."

need to be connected in such machines.

The patient's lawyer, Zahi Hoshan, who has occasionally fought for the right of terminally ill patients to die as they wish, praised the decision.

"This is a breakthrough and a very important day," said Hoshan, who eight years ago founded the Die with Dignity association.

ALS is a progressive degenerative fatal disease affecting the spinal cord, characterized by increasing and spreading muscular weakness and eventually paralysis. There is no effect on the person's mental capacity.

Arad is confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak. He communicates with his lawyer by nodding his head.

Telgam ruled yesterday not only in favor of Arad, but also in favor of a second petitioner, a 69-year-old pensioner from the North. The man also suffers from a terminal disease, is confined in a wheelchair and has difficulty functioning. His case has not been made public.

"Neither one of the petitioners should be connected to life-support systems or artificial breathing apparatus," said Telgam. "And if they are connected, doctors must disconnect them when it becomes apparent that the patient needs permanent assistance to function."

Telgam upheld the petitioners' resistance to the intervention by others in the natural course of their diseases.

"The main point here should be the dignity of the patient, and not that of the indecisive physician," he said.

"This is not an issue of anyone wanting to take his own life," ruled Telgam. "The matter of the sanctity of life is also not in question."

## detention

HERB KEINON

ARYEH Friedman, a Jerusalem resident and rabbinical court lawyer, was arrested yesterday and placed under administrative detention.

Friedman, a Kiryat Moshe resident and father of 12, was arrested in the afternoon by three plainclothes policemen. His wife, Sara, said the police gave no reason for his arrest, and just showed him an order signed by Defense Minister Shimon Peres.

According to Sara Friedman, the policemen conducted an extensive search of their home.

She said she has no idea why her husband was arrested, but that he was questioned once before the Rabin assassination, and once after. She said her husband was asked whether he is planning to undermine the government, or whether he knows of plans to undermine the government.

Arveh Friedman was brought before a Jerusalem District Court judge, who put off until Monday a hearing on the validity of the administrative detention, his wife said.

Sara Friedman said her husband is not affiliated with Kach.

If the court upholds the administrative detention, Friedman will join Shmuel Cytrio, a Kiryat Arba resident, who was placed under three months' administrative detention on December 4. Cytrio is currently on a hunger strike protesting his detention, and his petition against the detention is pending before the High Court of Justice.

Friedman moved from Kiryat Arba in Jerusalem about six weeks ago.

## A ringing quiet in south Lebanon

COMMENT DAVID RUDGE

IT may be coincidence that the latest round of shuttle diplomacy by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher has not been accompanied by the "usual" heavy fighting in south Lebanon.

Hizbullah could simply be taking a rest, as could Amal. Alternatively, they might be reorganizing, or preparing for future actions against the security zone.

It is also conceivable, however, that a stern message was sent to both Lebanese organizations by the Syrians to refrain from doing anything that might disrupt, or distract from, the discussions in Damascus and Jerusalem.

The fact is that the past few days have seen a marked drop in incidents, apart from a number of

attacks directed against South Lebanese Army targets and mortar fire at an IDF convoy, for which no organization claimed responsibility.

The decline in tension has been noticed on both sides of the border. UNIFIL spokesman Timur Gotsel said that Wednesday was the quietest day in south Lebanon in "many, many years, without a shot being fired in anger."

The situation yesterday was similar, with no major incidents reported. In the past year, attacks had been occurring at a rate of over two per day.

Syria was severely censured by

the US over Hizbullah's Katyusha rocket attacks on the Gahleeh panhandle at the end of last month. Hizbullah said the Katyushas were retaliation for IDF tank fire at a village north of the zone, in which one person was killed and five wounded.

Hizbullah might have its own agenda in Lebanon, but it is still subservient to the dictates of Syrian President Hafez Assad, whose troops control supply routes, and the areas of Beirut and the Bekaa Valley where Hizbullah has its headquarters and training bases.

Southern Lebanon is perhaps the litmus test of Assad's immediate intentions. As a bargaining chip, the fax of Damascus fully knows its worth.

## YEMENI

(Continued from Page 1)

accompanying Saleh as saying "News that circulated today [Thursday] that an official meeting was held today between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Israeli Premier Shimon Peres was baseless."

"There is no kind of official or other contacts between officials from the Yemeni Republic and Israel," he added.

Asked if France was willing to send troops to the Golan Heights after an Israeli withdrawal, Peres told reporters: "The French president said that if it would be necessary, France would be prepared to participate with a guarantee of security."

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There is also the drummer's sister (Julie Hewlett) who has had an affair with the guitarist, and the jazz club owner's wife (Mary Rutherford). At the beginning of the play we are told that the owner has been taken to the hospital. You spend two and a half hours with these people and learn to know them, to pity them, to love them. The play has no truth with a capital 'T', but rather a number of small truths, and you learn to appreciate professional actors who know how to take time and present a very beautiful and very sad musical moment in the jazz rhythm..."

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# Why Ora can't sleep

YOSEF GOELL

**I**N what can only be termed a curious statement by a cabinet minister, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir told *Ha'aretz* on January 2 that "The rise in the proportion of poverty is a direct result of the economic policies of the government, to which I am not a partner, and which I have opposed since my first day in the cabinet."

Namir made the statement a few weeks after the publication of the latest figures on poverty, and at the height of the crisis surrounding the closure of the Onman textile plant in the poverty-stricken Negev development town of Ofakim, which threw several hundred people out of work.

"Ever since the publication of the figures on poverty, I am not the same person; I can find no peace," she said.

Cynics may attribute Namir's emotional outburst to the beginning of the primary season in the Labor Party. I, for one, choose to believe she is sincere. But then I would ask her: "What are you still doing in the Labor Party?"

The problem is not so much sheer poverty - today's Israeli poor are significantly better off than they were in the past - but the rapidly growing gap between the rich and poor, and between the very rich and most of those in the middle.

Recent comparative studies show that, from being one of the most egalitarian societies among modern industrial states about 25 years ago, Israel has become the second-least egalitarian, just above the US, but well below the European free market economies. Israel also shares with America the shame of having the highest proportion of children living in families below the poverty line.

As Namir points out so correctly, this is a result of economic policies intentionally pursued by her own Labor government.

In all fairness, it should be not-

ed that Binyamin Netanyahu's Likud is no different. During the forthcoming election year, we will be inundated ad nauseam with pap from both major parties about bettering the lot of the common man.

But if we examine what these parties did when in power successively over the last 25 years, we will see that they share the blame for creating those large and growing socioeconomic gaps.

THERE ARE, to be sure, dilemmas galore.

Namir noted one of them when she said: "I am not for going back

## The labor minister has had little rest since the latest poverty figures were released

to the old ways and concepts. But I cannot accept that an economic policy intended to further economic growth must be based entirely on free markets and on an open economy. These result in unorganized labor, lower wages, and growing gaps between those at the top and the bottom."

No one has an easy solution to the problem of finding a healthy balance between the dictates of continued economic growth, and of a relatively egalitarian distribution of incomes. The problem is that for quite a number of years, the top people in government - from both major parties - couldn't have cared less.

Namir could have added a second dilemma specific to today's Labor Party: how to reconcile the drive for "peace" with the Palestinians and the surrounding Arab world with the desire to ensure a

fair society, which the Labor Party seemed to believe in a long time ago - or at least said it did.

The closure of the Onman plant in Ofakim is a harbinger of a very dismal immediate future.

Proponents of massive economic aid to the Palestinians have been pushing for the creation of industrial parks on the borders of the Palestinian Authority. The object is to provide jobs for the Palestinians.

But those very jobs will be taken away from the textile workers of Ofakim and Dimona, and from low-paid textile and food-processing workers throughout Israel. Some Israeli industrialists have already begun to move some of their "slave-wage" operations to Jordan and Egypt.

None of these problems have easy solutions. The question is: Has anyone with the power to make a difference, either in Labor or the Likud, really tried to find viable solutions? Sadly, the answer is no.

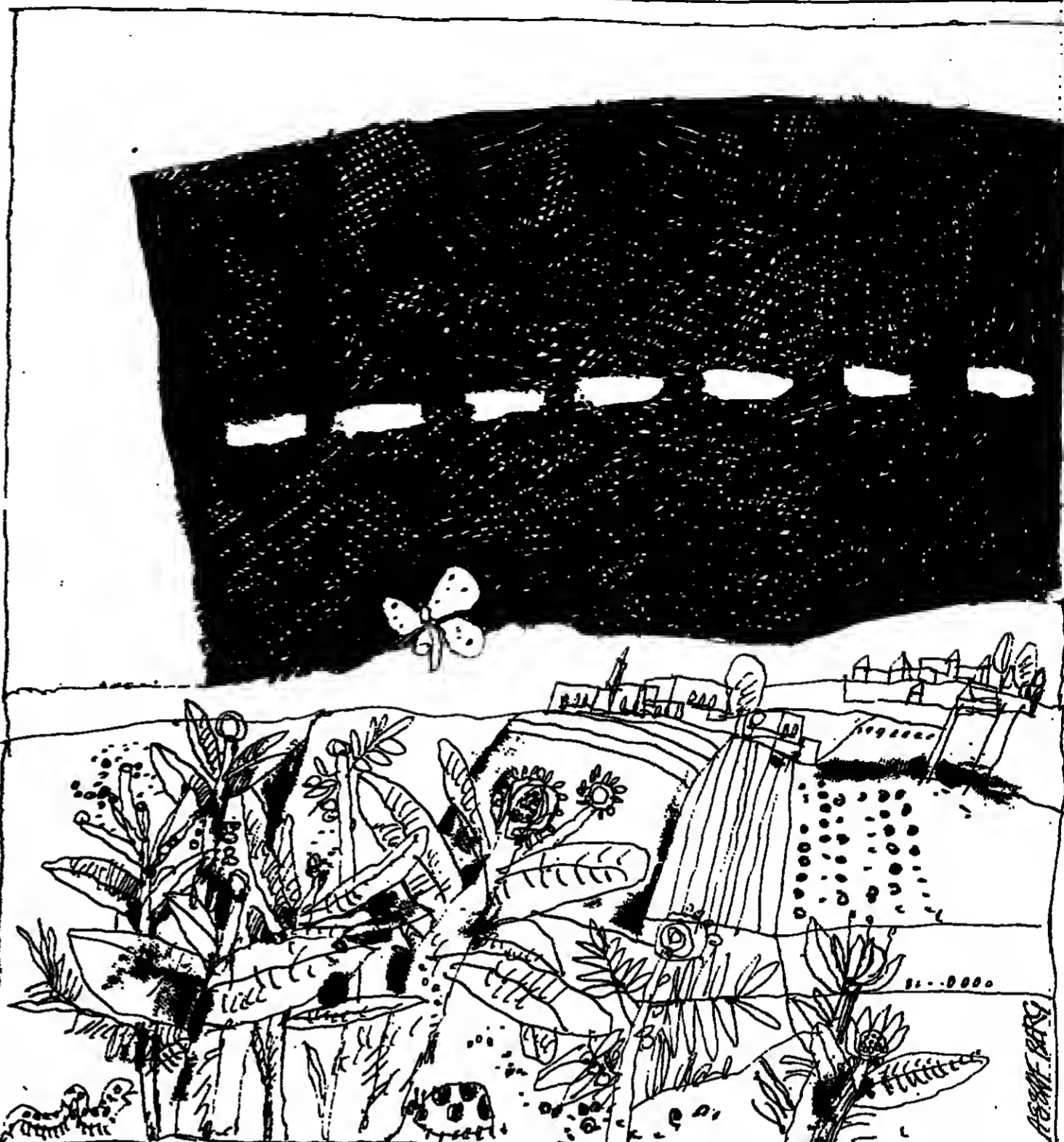
Israeli politics over the past 25 years has revolved so exclusively around the issue of the territories and the Arab-Israeli conflict that issues such as these have not even been relegated to the sidelines; they have been shoved off the political board entirely.

Theoretically, the political parties should be vying with each other to fight for the real socioeconomic interests of the overwhelming majority of the electorate. Yet, with their entrenched vested interests, little or nothing may be expected in this regard from either Labor or the Likud.

I wouldn't hold my breath even when it comes to parties like David Levy's. Levy talks big, but has a record of doing nothing.

And Natan Sharansky's Russian immigrants party has been brainwashed into supporting precisely that free market ideology Laborite Ora Namir so bemoans.

The writer comments on current affairs.



# Stop polluting the peace

DAVID NEWMAN

**T**HIS week's cornerstone-laying ceremony for the first section of the Trans-Israel Highway bears little relation to the recent outpouring of concern. Last week's news that three government ministers had requested a reassessment of the need for this highway signals an important juncture in the fight for Israel's environment.

Significantly, it is cabinet ministers and not "just" grassroots demonstrators who have joined the fight for Israel's environment. That environment is under daily threat; the signs are already alarmingly apparent in our rapidly changing landscape.

We visited my brother-in-law recently on his kibbutz in Galilee. Living as we do against the backdrop of the brown sand dunes of the northern Negev, we looked forward to relaxing against the breathtaking view of Lower Galilee and the Netofa water reservoir which are to be seen from the mountaintop kibbutz of Beit Rimona.

But since our previous visit some two years ago, something has happened to change that view. Looking down from the lofty hilltop, our view was met by the gigantic scars of a large industrial zone in the making. Already constructed is the large Phoenix ceramics plant, operating around the clock, seven days a week, and belching out its smoky pollutants throughout the valley below.

Our view, and that of the residents of this pioneering community, is met by a thick line of smoke sweeping through the valley, leaving its residue in numerous Arab and Jewish settlements.

Asked how this development could have taken place, we were told that there was little alternative. The area under question had

been designated as a priority development area by the government. Providing employment for the local Arab population, previously starved of an equal share in economic resources and investment, had been the overriding argument used against any opposition to the plan.

Similar arguments are already being used with respect to the mass development expected to take place in the new Middle East of the post-conflict era. In a book

objections, but to little avail.

The developers will maintain that their project is being undertaken as an international, and possibly regional, investment in the name of peace. Environmental degradation, they will argue, is but a small price to pay for the social, economic and political benefits that will accrue from the project.

And we, the citizens of Israel who yearn for the future political stability of a full peace agree-

ment, will be lost for a counter-argument.

The cynical use of "peace" terminology will become the weapon for all those who would unhesitatingly destroy the little that is left of our environment and its delicate ecological balance.

While we may leave our children a safer political environment, one without wars and existential threats, we face the possibility of bequeathing them, at the same time, an environment devoid of all beauty, bereft of the physical and natural resources required for a healthy life.

WE ARE all partly to blame for this dismissive attitude toward the environment. When it comes in conservation, we are a schizophrenic society.

On the one hand, we teach our children to love the land of their birth. We take them on trips, and

teach them the name of every rock and flower. It is part of a process of territorial socialization through which they are bonded with the land, laying a claim to its natural beauty.

We similarly educate our citizens in the ways of water conservation, expressing the need to save this valuable but scarce resource without which we could no longer survive in a semi-arid region.

And yet, on the other hand, these environmental values fade into nonexistence when they encounter the actual task of preserving and conserving these scarce resources for future generations.

In our daily lives, we treat the environment with contempt. We litter the roads and hillsides with our garbage, we build polluting factories in the name of development, and we waste precious water by washing our cars to an extent few of our European neighbors do. In the name of the Zionist dream, we try to make the desert bloom with lawns which were never intended to grow in semi-arid climates.

If we are not to be too late, we must take on the environmental challenge today. We need to lend support to the growing, but as yet weak "green" lobby. We must find ways to advance the joint causes of peace, social and economic development and regional cooperation without letting the one become the death knell of the other.

The writer teaches in the Department of Geography and Environmental Development and is Director of the Humphrey Center for Social Policy at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

# 'Business yes, therapy no'

**C**HRISS, it's good to see you again. I love it when you talk tough with me - especially that line about how this is going to be your last visit to Damascus. Ha, ha, ha. You really crack me up sometimes.

Now you listen to me, Mr. Secretary of State: Do you take me for a fool? Do you think I just fell off a watermelon truck from Aleppo?

We both know what keeps pulling you back here. I'm the mosehead you want to mount on your wall. I'm your ticket to a Nobel Peace Prize.

Well, Chris, here I am. If you want me you'll have to come and get me, and it's going to take a few more trips.

Now, Chris, you tell me I have to make a personal, emotional appeal to the Israeli public - a "psychological breakthrough," you called it - just like those hotstickers Sadat, Arafat and Hussein did.

Chris, I'm not the president of Norway. If I were the kind of leader capable of personal, touching and emotional appeals, I never would have survived as ruler here for 27 years.

I've read my Machiavelli, Chris, and he taught that it is better to be feared than loved. Love is something people grant or withdraw according to their whims. But fear, Chris, is like a cold hand resting on your shoulder that you can't remove.

Have you seen how my ministers tremble in our meetings? They are terrified of me. But you want me to persuade the Israelis to trust me? Trust - that is such an American concept. Fear, Chris, ruling is about fear. You could use some of that yourself.

But Chris, it's not only my people who are afraid. I am, too. I come from a minority in Syria - the Alawite tribe. The Sunni Moslem majority here watches every move I make. They will pounce on me in a second if I go too far. I think about that constantly.

Haven't you noticed that I never send Alawites to negotiate with you or Israel - only Sunni Moslems and Christians? That's because I want them to be held responsible for any deal.

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Sol's be clear, I am ready to sign a peace treaty with the Israelis in order to get my Golan Heights back. I am ready to give them the security arrangements they need, provided that they give me the same. I am even ready to attend a signing ceremony with Shimon Peres.

But I am not ready to embrace

## If Assad could speak candidly, he'd be saying something like this to Warren Christopher when the two meet today

the Israelis or show them any warmth, and I am not ready to open the Syrian economy to their businessmen. You cannot force such a psychological breakthrough from the top. That can only emerge over time.

I want peace, but without any ideological or human reconciliation with the Zionist state.

There is still plenty in it for Peres and his people. A peace treaty with me means an end to the state of war between Israel and its most dangerous enemy. It also means an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, because if I do a deal with Israel, all the other Arabs, including Saudi Arabia, will fall into line. The Arab world comes with me.

That is a big deal, Chris, and I will sell that deal to my own people in order to get back the Golan Heights, but don't ask me to sell it to the Israelis as well.

To sell this deal to my own people, I need to maintain a high level of fear. To sell this deal to the Israeli people, someone has to soothe their fears. That's not my thing. Peres is good at soothing fears. I'm good at generating them.

Don't confuse our roles. I will deliver Syria; let Peres deliver Israel.

When the Israeli people see what's on the table - peace with Syria and peace with the Arab world - they will eventually come along.

And Peres will come along too, because I will not only deliver him all of these strategic benefits, but I will get him reelected as well. Maybe he'll even win like me - with 99.6 percent of the vote!

You know, Chris, after my last election, one of my aides came to me and said: "Mr. President, you won 99.6 percent of the vote. It means only four-tenths of 1 percent of the Syrian people didn't vote for you. What more could you ask for?" And I said: "Their names." Ha, ha, ha.

So there you have it, Chris. I'm ready to do business with the Israelis - but not therapy. I'm in no hurry, but it looks to me like you and Peres are, so you'll be back, and your room at the Sheraton will be waiting.

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## Classic outsider becomes insider

Ami Ayalon's appointment is the latest of a low-profile, no-nonsense security force chief, Steve Rodan reports

YEHUDA Melamed recalls how his commander split his group of sea raiders during a nighttime operation in southern Lebanon in the early 1970s.

The two groups had arranged for their return to the Navy boat at a certain time. Melamed's group arrived on the boat. The second force, headed by commander Ami Ayalon, was missing. Melamed says his group waited five, then 10 minutes - "a huge amount of time given the time constraints we were under." Then Ayalon's group arrived. The commander ordered his men into the boat and then asked Melamed, a physician, a question.

"He had seen a wounded Lebanese boy and had bandaged him, and he wanted to know whether he'd done it correctly," Melamed says. "That's why he was late."

The anecdote reflects the warmth of the incoming chief of the General Security Service, but the entry by the 30-year-old former OC Navy to replace current head K. means more than a change in personality at the helm. It marks what could be a new era for the service. Despite his lack of intelligence experience, both security sources and several former senior GSS agents say Ayalon's personality is exactly what the service needs.

Quietly, security sources say, a new conception is being introduced into the senior echelons of the IDF and intelligence agencies. Less has become more in a security establishment that over the

past five years has been dominated by media-savvy generals and security chiefs that many critics say made their image a high priority.

"The General Staff today has become probably the most public relations-conscious [staff] in the history of the state," says a senior defense source who does not want to be identified.

THAT TIDE is being rolled back, defense sources say. It started when Amnon Shahak became chief of staff. He immediately lowered his profile in contrast to that of Ehud Barak, who rarely refused an opportunity to sound off to the media.

Shahak appointed Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, a novice, as IDF intelligence chief. Like Shahak, Ya'alon was demure, kept out of the spotlight and concentrated on learning his job.

Now comes Ayalon. As Navy commander, he was the least known of the armed service heads. His job was to battle the military bureaucracy that clearly placed the Navy at the bottom of IDF budget priorities. He fought what some defense sources acknowledge was group-think on the capabilities of the Arah armies and used Navy intelligence to argue that Israel's Arah neighbors were planning to make the sea an active military front in any future war.

Ayalon argued that the Navy would be more important after Israeli withdrawal because it would be the only service whose maneuverability at sea would not be significantly affected by a pullback.

His argument was quietly accepted and today the Navy is changing its role from that of a glorified coast guard to a modern force that could play a significant offensive role in future wars. As a result, the Navy is obtaining three German Dolphin submarines and five naval warships from the US, a huge addition to the tiny force.

Defense sources say Ayalon's modesty, penchant for details and ability to administer a major organization are well-suited to the GSS.

"The burden placed on the GSS chief is greater than perhaps on any other person in the country," says MK Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who had long been an intelligence official. "This includes the minister who would be responsible for the GSS. However, I would have wanted someone from the outside coming to the GSS to have had experience in intelligence."

THE CONTRAST between Ayalon and K. is striking. Where Ayalon is unassuming, K. sought the limelight, initiating meetings with selected reporters and editors. Last year, after the capture of a Hamas terrorist ring in the Hebron area, K. held a news conference, the first by a GSS chief.

"We are not in the headlines. That is a testimony to our success," Ayalon said in a recent interview to the IDF weekly, *Bamahaneh*. He headed the Navy for 3½ years before stepping down on January 1.

Where Ayalon is an outsider and a straight shooter, K. was the GSS's ultimate insider who owes his current position to his patron and predecessor, Ya'acov Perry. Where Ayalon is warm, K., reflecting the traits of Perry, is seen as cold and calculating.

Ayalon's personality made him a favorite over other candidates. They in-

cluded the head of IDF Central Command, Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran, and the prime minister's military secretary, Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom, who had turned down the offer in the past.

Most important for Shahak and Prime Minister Shimon Peres, defense sources say, Ayalon will seek to redress Israel's security agenda. As GSS chief, K. placed more resources into monitoring the radical right in his belief that it constituted a major threat to the peace process.

Ayalon is said to advocate that the GSS must focus on combating Arab terrorism. Defense sources believe that over the next few years, the GSS will place more of the responsibility for monitoring the extreme right-wing in police hands. But that intention depends largely on the recommendations of the Shamgar Commission investigating the assassination of Rabin.

Ayalon's priorities made him Yitzhak Rabin's favorite before he reluctantly agreed to appoint K. as GSS chief. Rabin was said to have disliked K.'s high profile and particularly his warnings of a right-wing plot to assassinate government leaders.

Perhaps Ayalon's best asset, defense sources say, is that he has no personal interests in the current infighting in the GSS. Since 1987, when Perry entered office, the agency has been characterized by an us-against-them mentality. "Us" was Perry's coterie of young GSS followers who knew that pleasing the high-profile boss was the best way to advance in the service.

Perry's contemporaries in the GSS, the older hard-bitten Arabists, fared least well under the system. They were forced out one by one as Perry made it clear that they would not advance in their career. By the time K. assumed office, close to a dozen GSS senior agents had resigned.



Defense sources say Ayalon's modesty, penchant for details and ability to administer a major organization are well-suited to the GSS. (IDF Spokesman)

What's needed now, former GSS officials say, is a man who stresses hard work over camaraderie to steer the GSS back on course after years of drifting.

"As it stands, this is not one of the golden eras in the organizational aspect of the service," Yisrael Shai, a former GSS official, says.

## Profile in courage: Commando Ayalon on Green Island

IN an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* several years ago, Adm. Ami Ayalon displayed a reticence that in retrospect seems appropriate for the man named this week as the new head of the General Security Service.

The interview dealt with Ayalon's role in the attack in 1969 by a naval commando force on Green Island, a fortified Egyptian position in the Red Sea. The admiral was clearly uncomfortable talking to a reporter, particularly about himself. An adjutant sat stiffly in the room, adding to the formality of the occasion.

Ayalon had a lithe build and a youngish, outdoorsman's face that did not quite belong to the large office he now occupied, reflecting rank and authority. He had spent much of his career with the underwater commandos and it seemed as if he would have been more at home suited up in a dark frogman's outfit than in his dress whites.

Slowly, he related his part in the story, a role which won him the nation's highest award for bravery. He spoke at first in sparse sentences that cloaked more than they revealed but as he began to relive the moment the telling became more animated.

The event had taken place during the War of Attrition along the Suez Canal. The Egyptians, recovering from the debacle of the Six Day War, were laying down massive artillery barrages daily on the Bar-Lev Line and launching commando raids across the canal with increasing boldness.

After a particularly damaging raid which cost Israel seven dead and a number of prisoners, defense minister Moshe Dayan ordered an appropriate response. The target chosen was Green Island, a fortress built by the British on a coral outcropping a mile off the Egyptian coast near the southern approaches to the canal.

### The former Navy chief earned respect and a medal for his role in a major operation during the War of Attrition, Abraham Rabinovich writes

A compact 100-meter-long fortress bristling with guns and protected by heavy artillery on the Egyptian mainland nearby, it was as difficult a target as could be chosen. Antiaircraft guns would make any helicopter assault suicidal, while boats attempting to reach the island with assault troops would likely be blown out of the water before they reached it. It was decided to use naval commandos who would swim underwater to the island and attack at night.

AYALON WAS one of the young officers on the assault team's second squad. The first

squad's task was to emerge silently from the sea and overcome the Egyptian sentry posts on the water's edge. The second squad would then scale the roof of the fortress where the antiaircraft guns and other heavy armament were emplaced. That is where the main battle would be fought.

Other commando squads would follow. With the fortress's heavy guns neutralized, boats would bring ashore fighters from an elite reconnaissance unit to finish the job.

The attackers achieved surprise and quickly established a beachhead. The second squad raced forward with Ayalon in the

lead. In the brief time it had had to prepare the operation, the attack force experimented in swimming underwater with a collapsible ladder to be used in negotiating the 2.5 meters to the roof, but it had proven awkward swimming with it over a long distance. Instead, a tall squad member named Jacob was designated to serve as a ladder. Ami Ayalon was to be the first to mount. Climbing onto Jacob's shoulders, he cautiously lifted his head over the edge of the roof.

There were two light antiaircraft gun positions nearby, one to the right and one to the left. The positions were surrounded by

concrete walls behind which sentries could be made out. A heavy machine gun covered both. Once he climbed onto the roof, Ayalon would be totally exposed. He pulled a smoke grenade from a pouch and hurled it toward the machine gun, but the grenade failed to explode. When Ayalon raised his head to see what had happened, his face was cut by ricocheting shrapnel.

Recovering quickly, he threw another grenade, but this too failed to explode. The water pressure at the depths to which the heavily loaded men had descended during their underwater approach to the island had rendered many of the grenades inoperable. If Ayalon was to make his move it would have to be without cover.

TAKING A deep breath and counting to three, he vaulted onto the roof and headed for his target, the gun to the left. His

partner, a young commando named Zali, was right behind him, scrambling over Jacob's back onto the roof. The pair threw grenades into the gun position. This time the grenades exploded. The commandos entered firing their Uzis, killing the two Egyptians inside. Another team mounted the roof behind them and took the right-hand gun position.

The boats carrying the second wave were delayed and the small number of commandos who had reached the roof came under mounting pressure. A burst from the machine gun severed two fingers on the hand of Zali, a talented fighter.

According to the detailed plan drawn up before the attack, the pair were to remain in the gun position until the second wave had passed them. However, the delay in the reinforcement's arrival and the murderous fire being delivered by the Egyptians prompted Ayalon to continue forward. "Can you shoot?" he asked his wounded partner. The answer was affirmative.

The two men bounded forward to an empty position closer to the machine gun. From there they threw grenades that finally silenced the gun, but not before Ayalon was wounded a second time when grenade fragments cut into his leg.

By the time the second wave reached the roof, half the men in the first wave had been killed or wounded. Ayalon, who had remained in the forefront of the battle, was wounded a third time, this time in his hand and throat. He lost consciousness briefly but regained it and bandaged his wounds himself.

Leaning on a comrade, he managed to make his way back to a rescue boat. He would receive the Medal of Valor for his performance on Green Island.

When the Yom Kippur War broke out, Ayalon was in command of a patrol boat squadron in the Red Sea. One night early in the war he discovered an anchorage on the Egyptian coast filled with fishing vessels about to transport soldiers and supplies across the Gulf of Suez to Sinai.

Entering with three boats, he made 10 sweeps of the small harbor despite accurate fire from the shore. The patrol boats fired into the massed Egyptian small craft until ammunition was exhausted. Nineteen boats were sunk, and secondary explosions indicated that many were carrying explosives.

Ayalon would lead numerous commando raids against Palestinian targets along the Lebanese coast, which may offer him some sense of connection to his new occupation.

Home is the sailor, home from the seas. But for the near future, at least, Ami Ayalon will be swimming in waters murkier than any he has known until now.

### Committee of University Presidents Israel's Universities Announce

## Registration for the 1996 - 1997 Academic Year

Registration ends on February 29, 1996

Registration forms, including information booklets, can be purchased at all university bookstores and other bookstores or obtained by mail, as indicated below.

National Institute for Testing and Evaluation  
Israel's Universities  
P.O. Box 26015, Jerusalem 91260, Tel. 02-759555

#### Inter-University Psychometric Exam

The next exam, in Hebrew, will be given on Monday, February 19, 1996. Registration forms must reach the National Institute for Testing and Evaluation by January 23, 1996. Psychometric exams in Hebrew, Arabic, Russian and Combined/English will be held on April 1-2, 1996.

Registration forms must reach the National Institute for Testing and Evaluation by February 28, 1996. Registration kits, in all languages, are on sale at university bookstores and Steinitzky bookstores or may be purchased by sending a request and check for NIS 24, by mail, to the National Institute for Testing and Evaluation (see address above). The registration kits include comprehensive instruction booklets containing general information, parts of tests with explanations for independent study, and a complete previous exam for practice and for calculating approximate test scores.

Overseas Exams  
Psychometric exams will be held in several cities in Europe, the United States and Latin America during April - May 1996 (depending on number of applicants). Registration for the exams in the United States and Europe will end on March 15, 1996, and for Latin America on April 19, 1996. Applicants should contact the Coordinator of Overseas Exams, at the Institute, at the above address, or by telephone.



Those applying in January will pay a reduced registration fee.

Registration offices:  
Admissions office - for those with a matriculation certificate from Israel or from an Arab country: Frank Sinatra Building, Mount Scopus, Sun. - Thur., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., or Tel. 02-882882, 882888, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. only.  
Overseas Students Admissions Office - for applicants with foreign certificates: Goldsmith Building, 3rd floor, Mount Scopus, Sun. - Thur., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tel. 02-882607; for Russian speakers - 02-883184.

Registration forms and information booklets:  
At the Hebrew University in Jerusalem - Academic stores, Steinitzky bookstores throughout the country and other university bookstores.  
By Mail: Send letter of request with postal money order for NIS 66 to Academic, P.O. Box 41, Jerusalem 91000.



Undergraduate Studies  
Registration forms and information booklets are available from: Michlol, Technion, Haifa, Tel. 04-8322970, and at Steinitzky stores in major cities.  
By Mail: Send request with check for NIS 66 to Michlol, The Technion, Haifa 32000.

For additional information, Registration and Admissions Office: Ullman Building, at the Technion, Sun. - Thur., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; information also available by phone: Tel. 04-8229129, throughout the day. New immigrants and applicants with an academic background: Sun., Tue., Thur. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Those applying in January will pay a reduced registration fee.  
Registration and Admissions Unit:  
Main Building, Room 776, Sun. - Thur. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Recorded information - Tel. 04-8340324; for undergraduate studies (B.A.) - 04-8240325/6, 8249103; for advanced studies - 04-8240663, 04-8249103. Offices closed on Fridays. Buses 24, 36, 37, 38, 91.  
Registration forms and information booklets: At Grant stores at the University of Haifa and throughout the country; Michlol stores at the Technion, the Faculty of Medicine at Rambam Hospital, and at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev; at Dionos stores at Tel Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University; at Steinitzky stores in Haifa and other major cities.  
Or by Mail: Send letter of request, with check for NIS 66, payable to Grant, University of Haifa, Haifa 31905.



Those applying in January will pay a reduced registration fee.  
Registration Offices:  
Ein Gedi Building, 4 Wolfson St., Sun. - Mon., Wed., Thur. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tue. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tel. 07-461039, 07-461041. Phone calls will not be answered during reception hours.  
Registration forms at Dionos stores at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Tel Aviv University, Steinitzky stores, Academic stores in Jerusalem, Givat Ram and Mount Scopus campuses.  
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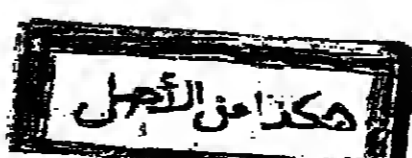


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Registration Unit:  
Registration and Admissions Office - Registration Center, 25 Klatchkin St., Room 35, Ramat Aviv, on Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and Tue. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tel. 03-642086. Recorded information 03-6428555.  
Applicants with academic credentials from abroad: Sun., Tues. and Wed. only, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Room 27, Tel. 03-6408317.  
Registration forms and information booklets are available at the Dionos stores in the Eric Mitchell Student Union Building, Tel Aviv University; Ben-Gurion University of the Negev; Herzliya (Interdisciplinary Center).  
By Mail: Send letter of request with check for NIS 66, by registered mail to: Rev. Dionos Publishing House, P.O. Box 39287 Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv 61392.

Registration Office:  
Michlol Feinberg, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Tel. 08-9343843. Registration for the M.Sc. degree ends June 15, 1996.  
Registration for the Ph.D. degree continues throughout the academic year.  
Electronic mail: NFINFO@WEIZMANN.AC.IL

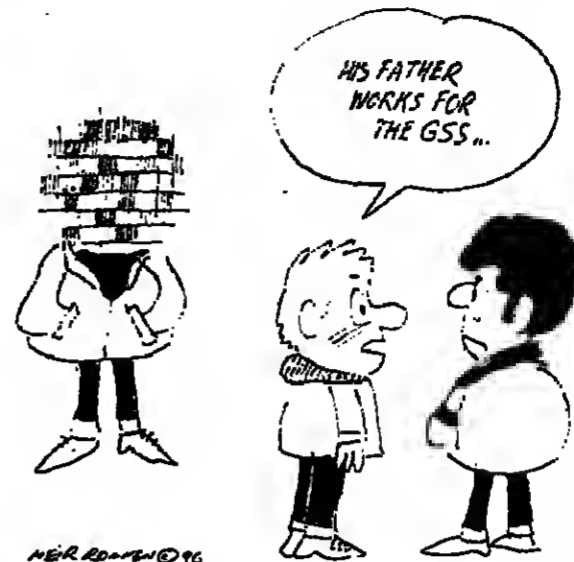


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For Undergraduate (B.A.) Students: Hamigdal Building, ground floor, Sun. - Mon., Wed., Thur. 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and Tue. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tel. 03-53185206. No reception on eves of holidays and fast days.  
Recorded information - 03-5318887.  
For Graduate (M.A.) and Certificate Studies: Hamigdal Building, 2nd floor, Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tel. 03-5318886.  
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Buses: from Tel Aviv - 45, 64, 68, 69, 70; from Rehovot and Rishon LeZion - 164, 165; from Holon and Bat Yam - 43; from Petah Tikva - 87, 164; from Jerusalem - 400.  
Registration forms and information booklets for Undergraduate (B.A.) and Graduate (M.A.) studies: Sifti and Steinitzky stores and bookstores on university campuses.  
For Ph.D. studies, at the office for Ph.D. studies, Hamigdal Building, 2nd floor.



# More quiet on the terrorist front

The PA's ability to neutralize Islamic terrorism has led security officials to be optimistic, Steve Rodan reports



Ayyash killing, Hamas will lose credibility... Abu Nasser, whose assessment is echoed by both Palestinian and Israeli security sources, says Hamas leaders will simply allow Izzadin Kassam to take its revenge for the assassination of Ayyash without announcing responsibility. Any attack on Israel would then be attributed to individuals without connection to Hamas.



According to Palestinian security sources, GSS agents tracked Ayyash down by shadowing his mother, seen here with a picture of Ayyash and holding his two-year-old son Bana. (David Zilber)

## Ayyash killing: Innovation, intelligence at its best

THE liquidation last week of Yihye Ayyash, the country's most wanted Palestinian terrorist, is the direct result of excellent intelligence and operational-technological innovation.

It is widely assumed that Israel's security services were behind the killing. If this indeed is the case, it might have been the work of the General Security Service (GSS).

Technologically, the innovation lies in the sophisticated method of concealing the explosives in the cellular phone which blew off Ayyash's head. Because only a small amount of explosives could be installed inside the phone - Palestinian sources estimated that 50 grams was used - it had to be sharply penetrative and highly effective to ensure his immediate death.

### The murder of most wanted Palestinian terrorist Yihye Ayyash was an intelligence coup, Yossi Melman writes

It has been used both by Israeli intelligence and the PLO's security apparatus. In 1995, a Gaza-based Egyptian intelligence operative who was a Palestinian infiltrator was killed upon opening a parcel he received in the mail.

precise intelligence was gathered about his daily and nightly habits. The safe house which harbored him was discovered.

According to Palestinian security sources, GSS agents tracked him down by shadowing his mother. The agents allowed her to meet with her son and generated disinformation which portrayed the mother-son encounter as the GSS's security failure.

Such disinformation only helped to increase Ayyash's self-confidence that he was untouchable. During the long months of delicate surveillance, Israeli agents managed to recruit several Palestinian collaborators who led them to Ayyash, according to Palestinian sources.

Finally, the lethal phone was handed over to the target by one of them, probably a Yich Gazan contractor. He likely didn't know the exact nature of the device and was told that only listening and monitoring instruments had been installed inside it.

YOU could see them at virtually every shopping mall, bus depot, airport or crowded thoroughfare in the country's major cities: special police units armed with semi-automatic rifles on high alert for a terrorist attack.

But despite the threats of Islamist retaliation in the wake of the assassination of Hamas bomber Yihye Ayyash, the most wanted Palestinian terrorist in Israel's history, Israeli security officials are confident that 1996 will be quieter than any other year during the past decade.

Officials say the trend began in May 1994 when the Palestinian Authority was established.

"We see a continued decrease in terrorist incidents during this year, but not necessarily a decline in the lethality of those attacks, including bus bombings," a senior security source says.

The officials, whose conclusions were part of the national intelligence assessment presented to the cabinet on Sunday, say the decline in terrorism seen in 1995 will continue throughout this year as the PA increases its effectiveness in battling Islamic terrorism and bolsters its security cooperation with Israel.

"The PA is confiscating weapons, arresting Hamas people everywhere, not only in Gaza and Jericho, but in Judea and Samaria," a senior security source says.

"It has succeeded in creating rifts within the organization. This has influenced Hamas's behavior and has decreased its motivation."

In 1995, Hamas and Islamic Jihad each launched four suicide bomb attacks against Israeli targets. The outgoing head of the General Security Service, K., said 39 people were killed and 223 were wounded in the bombings.

Some security officials who were highly skeptical of the PA's ARAFAT'S METHODS have led to the isolation of Hamas's armed wing from its patrons both within and outside the territories. Despite their maintenance of weapons and militants, Hamas's Izzadin Kassam wing has been placed in limbo. The organization's political leaders have convinced the military wing that any attack against Israel would only delay the sought-after Israeli re-

deployment from West Bank cities, particularly from Hebron, the largest Hamas stronghold in the area.

As for Islamic Jihad, the sources say, the assassination of Fathi Shkaki has left the organization in disarray. Unlike Hamas, Jihad obtains its support largely from abroad, mainly Iran, and Shkaki's successor, Ramadan Shalah, who spent years as a professor in the US, has had difficulty in maintaining the backing of Tehran.

Both Israeli and Palestinian security sources don't expect a significant change in Hamas's current restraint in the wake of the Ayyash slaying. They are on alert for revenge attacks from Hamas but expect a limited response.

One assessment is that Hamas will try to kidnap IDF soldiers from Area B, where both Palestinian and Israeli forces are permitted to operate.

Wadie Abu Nasser, a researcher at Tel Aviv University who has steady contact with the PA and Islamic leadership, says security officials in the PA view the Ayyash killing as the elimination of a nagging problem that it could not resolve.

"I'm sure the PA is not very sad but they could not directly be involved in the killing without hurting the authorities well," he says.

Abu Nasser says Hamas's political activists will remain cautious. They will not announce the end of their understanding with the authority. They made a temporary halt in attacks on Israel from PA-controlled areas.

"Hamas is in a dilemma," Abu Nasser says. "If they accept the agreement, the PA will not forgive them and make it difficult. If they will not accept the

agreement, the assessment by both Israeli and Palestinian security officials is that the joint battle against terrorism will continue until at least after the Israeli elections. They say Arafat does not want a repeat of 1988, when on the eve of Knesset elections, Fatah terrorists firebombed an Israeli bus, killing a mother and three of her children. The bombing was widely seen as having foiled an expected Labor Party victory and instead led to a national unity government.

Some analysts say the results of the Israeli elections might determine whether the Islamic terrorists are reactivated. "If Israel insists on its demands on Jerusalem, the abrogation of the Palestinian covenant, then 1996 will be a year of a deteriorating situation that will escalate into unprecedented violence," says Yigal Carmon, the counterterrorism adviser to prime ministers Yitzhak Shamir and Yitzhak Rabin.

Yonah Alexander, a consultant on counterterrorism to Congress and professor at George Washington University, goes further. He dismisses the assessments that Hamas and Islamic Jihad will continue their restraint.

Echoing the assessments of security sources in Israel and in Europe, Alexander says Hamas has used the current lull in terrorism to forge links with Islamic militants in Europe, Asia and South America. This includes heightened cooperation with the Iran-backed Hizballah in Lebanon.

"I have no doubt that Hamas will take revenge," says Alexander, who is now giving lectures in Israel. "The question is not if, but when and where. That revenge won't only be here but abroad as well."

## The Environmental Community Appeals to Israel's Government: Get on Track - Cancel the Cross-Israel Highway

This may be the last chance to avert a misake of historic dimensions.

Don't let disinformation and myths confuse you. The Cabinet's Decision Should be Based on Facts:

**Myth:** The Cross-Israel Highway will Prevent Traffic Jams.

**Fact:** Any map charting traffic jams reveals the congestion is concentrated inside the major cities and their access roads. Research proves that only 10% of the cars in Tel Aviv are attempting to pass the city. How would a by-pass turnpike provide long-term relief?

**Myth:** The National Planning Board and experts reviewed the data and chose the Cross-Israel Highway as an optimal transportation strategy.

**Fact:** No comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement evaluating transport alternatives was ever prepared for consideration, despite legal actions demanding one. Independent professors of transportation and planning at the Technion, Hebrew and Tel Aviv Universities, however, argue that despite its astronomical costs, the road will create more problems than it solves.

**Myth:** The Highway will make outlying areas more accessible to the center of the country.

**Fact:** In the best case scenario, the highway would bring more drivers from the outlying areas closer to the traffic jammed city entrances.

**Myth:** The Highway will improve the quality of life in Israel.

**Fact:** The Highway will increase the number of traffic fatalities, exacerbate air pollution (already doubling every ten years) and pave over and swallow huge tracts of Israel's disappearing open spaces and agricultural lands.

The Western World has finally learned that Highways are Not the Answer. They only create more congestion.

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To support the campaign - contact coordinators at: Adam Teva V'din - The Israel Union for Environmental Defense  
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Aleh, a non-profit organization, is now overseeing the completion of the construction of the Learning Center for the Blind at the Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus in Jerusalem. Planned to be one of the most advanced institutions of its kind, the center will offer a wide range of services, including a course to prepare blind students for academic studies, which is recognized by the Ministry of Education, a reading service, recordings and the possibility of borrowing equipment (talking computer, tapes, etc.). We will be happy to have you visit our center and meet with our students. All members of the organization work on a fully volunteer basis. All contributions are tax deductible in Israel (in accordance with Article 46 of the Contributions Law) and in the U.S.A.

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# Conflict created a new reality for the region

**N**EXT to the end of the Cold War, the Gulf war had the most significant impact on the processes leading to the current Middle East peace negotiations.

While the dissolution of the Soviet Union had a clear and unequivocal result in the region - it deprived the Arabs of the Soviet strategic umbrella and thus returned the Arab-Israeli conflict to its regional dimension - the Gulf war's repercussions were more complex and thus call for a more careful and nuanced scrutiny.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the vigorous American reaction to it - after some initial hesitation - coincided with the waning of the Cold War and the Soviet Union's disintegration. On January 15, 1991, the Soviet Union was still there - but barely. It is true that in the last moves to avoid US military intervention, some high ranking Soviet officials, most prominently Yevgeny Primakov (who was appointed the Russian foreign minister on Tuesday) the Kremlin's top Middle East expert, tried desperately to save Saddam Hussein from the consequences of his own policies - but to no avail.

Moreover, it was clear that if Iraq still could have depended on a robust Soviet Union, then the US would find it difficult to marshal the impressive coalition that ultimately chased Iraq out of Kuwait.

In this context, it also appeared that the Gulf war was the ultimate defeat for the old dream of Arab unity - premised on a successful challenge to Western power - which had been made into such a powerful political and ideological weapon by Egypt's Abdel Nasser. Arab unity, and Arab power, turned out to be a pipe dream: rather than uniting them against what was considered the Arabs' main enemy - the West - the Gulf war became an arena in which Arabs were fighting Arabs, and one Arab state even called upon the US to extricate it from aggression and threats by fellow Arabs.

To have the sovereignty of an Arab country reestablished against the invading army of another Arab country by the military might of the US was thus the ultimate humiliation for the vision of Arab unity of power. Nasserism was finally shown to be what it really was - a self-aggrandizing, blown-up ideology, utterly out of touch with the realities of Middle Eastern politics.

The PLO was cut down to size even more. Arafat's public em-

**Arab unity, Soviet aid and PLO power were regional concerns forever changed by the war, Shlomo Avineri writes**

brace of Saddam Hussein immediately after the latter's occupation of Kuwait was, without a doubt, one of the PLO leader's major political blunders. One can only guess what led him to this colossal mistake. It is conceivable that he saw in the Iraqi Blitzkrieg against Kuwait that historical moment many Palestinians have been waiting for: the emergence of a new Nasser, nay, a new Saladin, finally pushing overboard the weak, US-supported conservative Arab regimes leading to that kind of Arab unity which would make the ultimate confrontation with Israel possible.

It was not to be. Not only was Iraq expelled from Kuwait and the US position in the region greatly enhanced, but Arafat also

**Nasserism was finally shown to be what it really was: out of touch with Middle Eastern politics.**

four himself cast out of the Arab consensus, virtually isolated an put into the Arab political doghouse. Saudi subsidies to the PLO were cut, Kuwait eventually expelled its Palestinian residents, and Arafat, once a symbol of Arab unity, found himself considered a traitor by much of the Arab world.

It was this weaker and much chastened Arafat who then had to agree to the humiliating conditions of Palestinian representation at Madrid and eventually to the even more humiliating condi-

tions, from a Palestinian perspective, of the Oslo agreements. No counter pressure from a no longer existing Soviet side could offset this utter hegemony of the US in the region.

If for many Arabs and Palestinians Arafat appears today to be operating under a virtual Israeli protectorate, this is not so far from the truth, if one bears in mind what the initial PLO position has been and that the PLO accepted a modality - autonomy - which it had previously rejected.

**THOUGH MANY** Israelis do not see it this way, many Palestinians do, and this perception is also part of the new, post-Gulf war reality. That the PLO is today dependent on US arms handed out sparingly and Israel's friends on Capitol Hill functioning as a lobby for this assistance to the Palestinian Authority is a far cry from what the Palestinians were dreaming about when they likened their struggle against Israel to the Algerian war of independence against the French.

On the Israeli side, the Gulf war had a similarly complex outcome. On the one hand, it greatly enhanced Israel's position because of the utter collapse of Arab solidarity and the weakening of the PLO. It was, after all, the first time that the US intervened in the Middle East conflict with all its military power - and it was one of Israel's bitterest enemies, Saddam Hussein, whose power was greatly diminished by this intervention.

Even if one regrets the US's hesitation to conclude the Gulf war with a decisive blow that would finally crush Saddam, and even if one has legitimate doubts about the efficacy of the UN-controlled regime imposed on Iraq's missile and non-coventional weapons capability, today's Iraq is a truncated country - with a virtual Kurdish mini-state in the north, with its economy barely surviving and with its military capability greatly diminished. A major enemy of Israel has been drastically defeated, though it is a pity that he was not totally eliminated when he should have been.

On the other hand, the Iraqi missile attacks against Israeli civilian targets during the Gulf war brought home to many Israelis, both experts and laymen, a crucial vulnerability in Israel's defensive posture which cannot be overlooked. All of a sudden, it became clear that Israel's real security concerns cannot be solved by control over the territories captured in 1967; when addressing Israel's real security concerns, these territories are irrelevant.

The dangers to Israel on a strategically existential level do not come from Palestinian terrorism, nor can they be answered by territorial control over Nabulus or Hebron. Under the conditions of modern technological warfare, it is missiles and non-conventional weapons, operated from hundreds if not thousands of kilometers away, which pose the real danger to Israel, not snipers in Kalkilya or even tanks on the Golan Heights.

It is these issues that have to be answered, and territorial control is not the answer. An Israel greatly strengthened by the outcome of the Gulf war and the demise of the Soviet Union could now, perhaps for the first time, address the overall issues of its security without being exclusively fixated on questions of territory.

There are obvious paradoxes in this new situation, for Israelis and Palestinians alike. But had it not been for the Gulf war, then the Oslo agreements, the peace treaty with Jordan and the whole ordering of political alliances in the Middle East would have been unthinkable. Little did Saddam Hussein imagine such consequences would result from his failed attempt to conquer Kuwait; however, history is full of such unintended results.

*The war, a professor of political science at the Hebrew University, is former director-general of the Foreign Ministry.*

# The Gulf war in review:

**Five years after 'the war that we'd like to forget,' Larry Derfner takes a look at the public and private changes that have taken place**

**I**T'S not by accident that we've tried to forget the Gulf war - we're really something ashamed and embarrassed by it," said Dr. Reuven Gal, head of the Israel Institute for Military Studies and a former IDF chief psychologist.

"So many of us ran from danger, quite hysterically, and at the end of the day were out that many casualties or even that much destruction," Gal continued. "We kept psychoanalyzing ourselves from morning until night. We had to count on American troops to bring the Patriots to defend us. And we sat like fools in our sealed rooms wearing those gas masks. We were passive, and we've tried to suppress our collective memory of it."

By now, the sociology of the Gulf war has become a set of cliches: This was Israel's first war in which the home front turned into the only front. Men did not go off to war, but rather stayed at home with no role other than comforting their wives and children.

The Gulf war's hero was not a commander or battlefield general, but the IDF spokesman, Nahman Shai, who was saluted for his calm, confident manner while telling the radio-listening public when they could come out of their sealed rooms. This was the war when the fighting nation of Israel came to resemble Diaspora Jews of past wars - fleeing, cowering, helpless, afraid of being gassed. And like most cliches, the cliches of the Gulf war are true.

Five years after the forgotten war, there are few traces left. The damaged buildings have been reconstructed. (As of December 31, 1995, the Income Tax and Property Tax Commission paid out NIS 236,631,310 on 15,259 property damage claims.) Most people have probably scraped the last of the masking-tape stains from their window sills. Few are still likely to feel that Pavlovian catch in their stomachs upon hearing an ambulance siren.

Mainly it was the families of the eight Israelis who died as a direct result of the war - one from a Scud that crashed his Ramat Gan ceiling on top of him, the rest from heart attacks brought on by panic or from suffocation because they forgot to remove the plug from their gas masks - who were deeply, permanently scarred.

Gal said that for the great majority of people, the psychological trauma of the war has long since receded. But for the thousands who got to know the Scuds at very close range, the



The war's hero was IDF Spokesman Nahman Shai who was saluted for his calm, confident manner while telling the radio-listening public when they could leave their sealed rooms. (Joel Fishman)

memory of the war is still far too vivid.

AT THE physical level, the 39 Scuds fired at Israel changed the look of whole neighborhoods. Because of Saddam Hussein, Israel's civil defense and even its building construction codes are different. Even if most Israelis have put the Gulf war behind them, the war left its mark on Israel.

Above all, it left its mark on south Tel Aviv, specifically Ezra and the Hatikva Quarter, two of the city's poorest neighborhoods. Ezra was hit in the first barrage of Scuds at 2 a.m. on Friday, January 18; Hatikva was smashed the following morning at 7. Haifa suffered relatively little damage from the Scuds, Ramat Gan much more, but south Tel Aviv got the worst of it.

Today Ezra and Hatikva look better and brighter than they've ever looked. A metal sculpture of a winged figure stands on the grounds of Beit Dani Cultural Center where the Scud fell in Hatikva. On adjoining Rehov Hatikva, the sidewalk has been repaved in red brick. The houses that were damaged look solidly rebuilt, painted in white and pastels,

with concrete walls in front and colorful iron gates. Here and there stand houses spared by the missiles; they look as leprosy and ready for condemnation as ever.

"There were people who joked that they wanted to put up a statue to honor Saddam Hussein. There were others who said, 'I have no luck - why didn't the Scud fall on my house?'" recalled Shlomo Maslawi, a Tel Aviv city councilman and long-time community activist in Hatikva. He added, though, that many residents remain bitter to this day because they didn't get the compensation they deserved.

"The old people and the poor people didn't know how to demand their rights, while the stronger ones did. Some people tried to cheat on their claims, so the authorities - Mas Rechush [the Tax Commission], the Tel Aviv Municipality, the Housing Ministry - became suspicious and ended up turning away many people whose claims were genuine," Maslawi said.

The first direct hit of the war landed in an empty lot on Ezra's Rehov Givolim. There are now benches and lampposts on the street, sidewalks where there were none before, and the old rebuilt houses look almost like new suburban cottages, minus the red tile roofs. But many residents remain dissatisfied.

"Look around - the, don't clean up around here, they just did a little superficial fix-up to show the tourists, and then forgot about us again," one homeowner said.

In the house at 10 Rehov Givolim, about 30 meters from where the Scud fell, an agitated Ruth Ezra echoed what Maslawi said about how the strong got compensation and the weak got screwed.

The government rebuilt her living-room wall that had been blown out, painted and patched the whole house, and paid her for her smashed stereo, TV and other appliances - but they didn't rebuild the concrete wall that used to divide her property from the neighbor's.

"They put this chain-link fence up, and now I have to look at the garbage in the next yard," she fumed.

Asked if she still suffered any trauma from the war, she laughed and said, "Trauma? I'm still traumatized about this fence."

There seems to be a number of hidden personal tragedies from the war. Ayala Toubi's mother is not on the list of people who died as a result of the Scuds. But Toubi said that the Scud which fell near her mother's home in Hatikva "drove her crazy." Afterward she couldn't bear to be in her apartment; she always wanted to get out. Evidently she had a stroke right after the Scud fell. Later on she had eight more, and died a year afterwards.

IN THE weeks after the war, about 50 south Tel Aviv residents whose homes were hit received treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder at Knapat Holim Chai's Tel Aviv Community Mental Health Center, said Dr. Uri Muller, director of the adult outpatient clinic there. Today fewer than 10 still come in. But for two and three years after the war, it



Tel Avivians boasted at the time about how clever they were to flee to Eilat; now, nobody admits it. (Andre Brummann)

## The 'egotistical' exodus from Area A

**T**IENS of thousands of citizens from "Area A" - Tel Aviv and its immediate surroundings, the area which was most vulnerable to Scuds - took to the road during the Gulf war. They filled the hotels of Jerusalem, or stayed with family and friends in the hinterlands, and clogged the freeways commencing to and from work.

It was hard to argue against their decision. The only fighting Israelis had to do in the war was to keep the kids calm. After the first week of the war, people saw televised shots of near-empty buildings destroyed by missiles and reasoned that if all the tenants had stayed home, more would have been injured or even killed.

And if gas or biological weapons came Area A's way, there would be mass death. "Why give Saddam five targets?" they asked themselves, and loaded the family, clothes and supplies into the car.

Ha'ir, the hip Tel Aviv weekly newspaper, led the retreat. In addition to running numerous articles in favor of leaving town, the paper conducted an admittedly unscientific, random check of homes

in the city midway into the war and found that 44% had been vacated. (The actual figure was almost certainly much lower.) On a now-famous front page, Ha'ir dummed up a road sign with an arrow pointing to the preferred out-of-town destination: "Innateh [Mommy]."

Not everyone was amused. Shlomo "Chich" Lahat, then mayor of Tel Aviv, said that except for mothers and children, people who left the city were "deserters." It cost him in popularity, but he stuck to his opinion.

In a telephone interview on Tuesday Lahat, approaching 70, was as combative as ever. "They were super-deserters," he said. "They acted like Jews acted for 2,000 years - like refugees. It was a disgrace."

Lahat acknowledged the exodus from Tel Aviv and its environs undoubtedly saved life and limb. But no matter, he said - it weakened the national spine, broadcast cowardice to Saddam Hussein, and set a worful precedent.

He blamed the country's leadership for having failed to buck up people's morale.

The effect of this precedent

was seen in July 1993, when Katyushas rained on Kiryat Shmona during the week-long Operation Accountability. Kiryat Shmona officials estimated that three-quarters of the city's 16,000 residents fled to safer parts.

In the frequent Katyusha attacks on the city prior to the Lebanon War, some Kiryat Shmona residents left town, but never en masse like in Operation Accountability, said Prof. Yoav Gelber, a military historian at Haifa University. The example of Tel Aviv in the Gulf war gave "legitimation" to the abandonment of Kiryat Shmona in Operation Accountability, he said.

More than a few civilians fled from Jerusalem during the War of Independence, and from border settlements in the terrorist incursions of the 1950s, Gelber noted, but these were exceptions to the rule. The Gulf war was the Israeli war in which heading for the hills - or the desert - became an approved mass movement.

"People were bragging on television about how they had left, about how good it felt to be in Eilat," Gelber recalled. "They

turned escape into an ideology, and those who stayed in Tel Aviv were made into suckers." Relatively few Haifa residents left town, Gelber said. He blamed the mass flight from Tel Aviv on the city's "egotistical, 'now-is-it' culture. There it's 'every man for himself.'"

Many of those who fled their homes won't admit it today, said Dr. Reuven Gal, head of the Israel Institute for Military Studies and former IDF chief psychologist. Though he was reluctant to judge individuals and families who left, Gal said that the cumulative effect of their actions was harmful.

"If you remember the trials people withstood during the early Zionist immigrations in this century, during the malaria epidemics, during the War of Independence, in the immigrant transit camps, in the periods of economic austerity, then it's impossible to escape the conclusion that we used to be more resilient and stubborn than we are now," he said. "The reaction during the Gulf war just added one more component to this." L.D.

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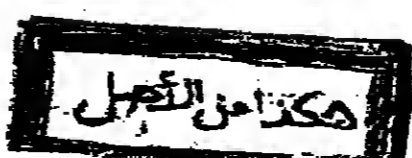
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1996

It's the gas tax, stupid

ON THE AGENDA AMOTZ ASA-EL

AS a democracy, Israel has an opposition, but - being Israeli - it is one which places all its bets on international rather than economic affairs.

Fortunately or not, depending on one's political leanings, the ministerial cacophony which accompanied this week's fiscal measures indicates that, like the opposition, the government is oblivious, if not altogether scornful, of the public's economic sensitivities.

Tower to invest \$240m. in semiconductor plant

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TOWER Semiconductor will invest \$240 million in its computer chip plant in Migdal Ha'emek despite the government's recent decision to reduce its investment grants.

"Doing Business in Israel," Shohat said he managed to convince Tower to go ahead with its investment plans despite the government's decision last month to reduce its maximum participation in investment projects from 38 percent to 34%.

ter said a reduction in Israel's risk level, government policy to invest in infrastructure and science, as well as the peace process are adequate incentives to encourage investment and also justify a reduction in grants.

TAAS to continue staying out of civilian market

STEVE RODAN

FOLLOWING losses of \$100 million over the past two years, TAAS-Israel Industries said yesterday that it will stick to its policy of shunning civilian production and concentrate on the military market.

rector Shlomo Milo said TAAS lost a fortune in investments and from every attempt to enter the civilian sector. "Had we been a private company, it would have led to our collapse," he said.

Israel ranks 66 in economic freedom index

Jerusalem Post Staff

ISRAEL has been ranked 66 among 103 countries in an index released yesterday measuring the level of economic freedom. The "Economic Freedom of the World" report, compiled by the Fraser Institute of Canada in cooperation with research institutes around the world, judged to what extent citizens of each country are free to engage in various economic activities.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

'Open gas to competition': Gas prices would drop by one third if the market were subject to real competition, Dor Energy general manager Yossi Antverg said yesterday.

Israel returns seeds to Holland: The Agriculture Ministry sent back a 50-ton consignment of potato seeds to Holland yesterday, after it learned the seeds are infected by a bacterium which causes heat decay.

IP High Pressure Cleaners to service Jordanians: IP High Pressure Cleaners, the local importer of KEW Industrial, a Danish company, is officially offering sales and repair services to Jordanian customers of the Danish firm.

Edisoft makes sale to Korea: Edisoft and parent company Dagem Systems yesterday announced the closing of a \$2.2 million sale to a Korean concern. The package, consisting primarily of multimedia software and some hardware, was delivered in part in late 1995.

Dina signs distribution agreement: Film company Dina Productions has recently signed \$934,000 in distribution agreements for the TV series 'Tropical Heat'. The show, filmed five years ago in Eilat and co-produced with a US production firm, has earned Dina \$10m.

The announcement coincides with a visit of US television executives, hosted by the Israel Export Institute.

Mashav buys 35% of Gold Bond Group

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Smeltzer-Fogel group, owners of the Gold Bond Group, yesterday signed an agreement to sell 35 percent of the company's share capital to Mashav Initiating and Development, a subsidiary of Mashav, jointly owned by Koor and Chal.

are Contem, which owns bonded warehouses, other warehouses, and a logistics center in Ashdod. The 100-dunam center is the largest in the Middle East.

Health Ministry expects large shortfall in funding health law

EVELYN GORDON

THE shortfall in funding for the National Health Law will be much higher than the Treasury has anticipated, Health Ministry Director-General Dr. Meir Oren told the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday.

Oren said that at the lowest estimate - the costs of the 1995 basket of services updated for inflation in the health sector - the basket in 1996 will cost NIS 15.6 billion. Total income, however, is expected to be only NIS 15.2b., leaving a

shortfall of NIS 400m. If the basket were instead updated the way the Health Ministry wants - for population increase, the aging of the population and new technologies - the cost of the basket would be NIS 16.3b., creating a shortfall of NIS 1.1b., Oren said.

Using the lowest estimates for both figures, therefore, the shortfall for 1995 and 1996 combined would be NIS 700m. However, the revised budget plan approved by the cabinet on Sunday allocates only some NIS 400m. to this problem - NIS 200m. on account of last year and the same figure for this year.

come should not be linked to expenses, because if it is, the health funds will have no incentive to keep costs down.

Real Estate & Investments in Israel 1996

Just before Pessach, The Jerusalem Post will publish special supplements devoted to real estate and investments in Israel. The supplements will be published in the International Editions of March 4, 11 and 18 and in the daily paper on April 5.

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THE ISRAEL-CANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and THE ISRAEL ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES invite you to a discussion on Economic and Trade Relations between Israel and Canada. Speakers: H.E. The Canadian Ambassador, Mr. David Berger, Mr. Yoel Snir, Director-General, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Mr. Kevin Gore, Chief Negotiator for the Canadian Government, Dr. Henri Rothschild, President, Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation, Mr. Zohar Perl, Assistant Director, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Dr. Gabriella Cohen, Ministry of Trade and Industry. The meeting will take place on Sunday, January 14, 1996, at 5 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel, 115 Hayarkon St., Tel Aviv.

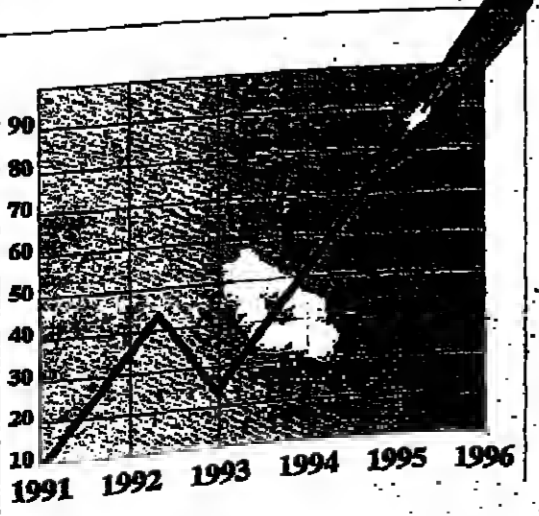
German GDP rises only 1.9% in 1995

WIESBADEN (Reuters) - The German economy slowed sharply in 1995 with gross domestic product (GDP) rising just 1.9 percent after 2.9% in 1994, according to preliminary government data released yesterday.

6.3% after 8.5% the year before. The figures were slightly below economists' expectations, but the market had been forewarned by recent statements from government ministers about the slowdown and a number of revisions in forecasts by leading economic think tanks.

come should not be linked to expenses, because if it is, the health funds will have no incentive to keep costs down.

Is the January Effect Affecting You?



History has shown that in January, the market tends to rise markedly as a result of bargain hunters looking for quality stocks on sale. The "January Effect" is just one of the fluctuations that can catch an investor by surprise. A well-planned portfolio, though, can help an investor profit from market volatility. Begin this year by talking to CommStock's experienced, U.S.-licensed professionals about strategies for safe, profitable investing. For a portfolio analysis, call Douglas Goldstein, Director of our Securities Division, at (02) 244-963.

CommStock Trading Ltd. Jerusalem: City Tower, 34 Ben Yehuda, Tel. 02-244-963; Fax: 02-244-876. Ramat Gan: Beit Silver, 7 Abba Hillel, Tel. 03-575-882627.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns for currency, deposit rates (3, 6, 12 months), and bank notes. Includes sub-table for Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (11.1.96) with columns for currency, bank, and rate.

Indexes fall to end week of declines

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ

208.74 -0.44% 216.12 -0.41%

Two-Sided Index... MAOF Index

ISRAELI stock indexes fell over the week, following declines in Israeli shares traded in New York...

which fell on Wall Street to a six-month low of 19% on Wednesday...

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Key Representative Rates table with US dollar and Mark rates.

NEW STOCK MARKETS table listing various stock market indices.

Israeli stocks in NY table showing stock prices and changes.

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks table listing bank names and stock prices.

Mortgage Banks and Finance table listing financial institutions.

Financial Institutions table listing insurance and other financial firms.

Trade & Services table listing various service companies.

Industrials table listing manufacturing and industrial companies.

Oil Exploration table listing oil and gas companies.

PARALLEL LIST

Trade & Services table listing parallel listed companies.

Industrials table listing parallel listed companies.

Investment Companies table listing investment firms.

Oil Exploration table listing parallel listed oil companies.

Other table listing miscellaneous parallel listed companies.

Two-sided trading

AFTERNOON table listing stock prices and changes.

MORNING table listing stock prices and changes.

Oil Exploration table listing oil company stock prices.

Other table listing miscellaneous stock prices.

FTSE falls 16 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Renewed turbulence on Wall Street again washed over UK stocks...

Stocks snap losing streak

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Wall Street stocks closed sharply higher yesterday as bargain hunters...

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Currency cross-rate table with columns for Mark, Sterling, Yen, Sft, Ffr.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices from various countries including UK, France, Germany, etc.

NEW MONEY MARKETS

Dollar cross rates table listing rates for Pound, D-mark, etc.

Labor rates table listing rates for different types of labor.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. including Futures, Options, and Mutual Funds.

NEW COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities table listing prices for items like Cocoa, Sugar, etc.

London commodities table listing prices for various commodities.

Spot market metals table listing prices for Gold, Silver, etc.

New York metal futures table listing prices for Gold, Silver, etc.

Large vertical advertisement for 'Solid Integr...' and 'Creative Writers...' on the right margin.

Small handwritten text at the bottom center of the page.



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RENTALS SHARREI HESSEDO, 1ST floor, 4.5 room cottage

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RENTALS CASPI ST., PERFECT for diplomat/international executive. Exquisite 6-room duplex

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RENTALS CENTER 2.5 ROOMS + closed balcony, furnished, central heating

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RENTALS 2 ROOMS, FURNISHED, luxurious, lobby, short-term possible

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# Labor court suspends Ouman dismissals

### Negotiations to resume today

THE Beersheba Labor Court yesterday forced a compromise on Polgat and the workers of its Ouman Knitting Mills in Ofakim, when it suspended the dismissal notices issued to the workers and instructed the sides to resume negotiations today.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said the compromise is a major achievement, because the court also accepted the Histadrut's arguments in ruling that Ouman has an "economic right to exist."

Ouman was closed down on December 22, and its 230 workers have been occupying the premises since then. To the

MICHAL YUDELMAN

talks which followed, the sides failed to reach an agreement and earlier this week Polgat issued dismissal letters to 190 workers.

The Histadrut asked the court to cancel the dismissals and order Polgat to reopen Ouman for at least six months. It also accused Polgat of renegeing on its agreement to continue operating the plant for six months if orders for 150,000 sweaters were obtained. The Histadrut managed to collect orders for more than 200,000 sweaters.

Polgat insisted that the workers' dismissals stand and that Ouman's closure is final.

The court scheduled another hearing for February 15, and ruled that meanwhile both sides must enter negotiations in good faith to settle the differences between them over severance fees under the court's supervision.

The court instructed the sides to report on their progress within a week and again after 15 days. If the negotiations reach a dead end, the parties are required to advise the court.

The Histadrut is determined to continue operating Ouman. Peretz yesterday met an entrepreneur who is interested in purchasing the plant.

# Calling Party Pays service slated for April

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Communications Ministry will allow the four paging companies to launch a Calling Party Pays (CPP) beeper service on April 1, if it receives approval from the Knesset Finance Committee next week. The ministry will allow the companies to charge a uniform rate for this service until the end of this year, after which competition will be introduced.

Heads of the four companies - Beeper, Iturit, Beep-a-Call, and Shidurit - claimed in a meeting with ministry director-general Shlomo Waxe last night that they had not already started the service, but have only started a "technical experiment" to see if it works.

However, they admitted that due to technical problems, any-

one who calls the 058 paging code from a public phone to leave or collect messages has six phone units debited from his card.

The service, aimed at increasing beeper subscribers in the face of growing demand for cellular phones, would free subscribers from paying monthly fees, and transfer the cost to those who leave messages.

At the meeting, Waxe was told that Cellcom is interested in offering CPP service from their cellular phones, but Pelephone is not. If approved, CPP service will not be available from the territories or autonomous areas, or from abroad.

Waxe instructed Bezeq to include clear explanations of CPP service in the next telephone bills.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**2 border policemen wounded in bombing**  
Two border policemen were lightly wounded when a bomb exploded near the Sufa checkpoint in Gaza, as they were on joint patrol with Palestinian policemen last night. They were both hospitalized. *lim*

**One killed in accident**  
One person was killed and another seriously injured when a car overturned near Rosh Ha'ayin yesterday. A Magen David Adom ambulance brought the injured man to the hospital for treatment. *lim*

**Shahak begins visit to China**  
Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak was greeted with full military honors as he began an official visit to China yesterday. He will meet with the Chinese vice president, defense minister, chief of staff, and other senior military officers. *On Levy*

**Eban to host show on peace process**  
Former foreign minister Abba Eban is to narrate a TV program on the Middle East peace process, to be produced by Channel 13 in New York, the flagship station of the Public Broadcasting System. Eban will help the station put together the program, which will be shown on public TV in the US and distributed internationally. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Observer: Close post offices on PA elections

CHIEF European election observer Carl Lidbom met yesterday with police to ask that post offices in eastern Jerusalem be closed on Palestinian election day to prevent Israeli settlers from interfering with the balloting there. He was assured that police would maintain strict security.

*Jon Immanuel*

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The Jerusalem Report Requires a Graphic Designer / Page Layout Artist literate in Corel Draw, Ventura and Photoshop. Applicants please contact: Lisa 02-291023 or Linda 02-291001 or send CVs to Linda, P.O. Box 1805, Jerusalem 91017

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CV in confidence to fax: 031 648 2002

**Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra I.B.A.**

**REQUIRED: PRODUCER**

**Job Description**

- Responsible for the production of the orchestra's concert performances, including the arrangement of the musicians' work calendar
- Coordinating stage arrangements
- Recruitment and auditioning of musicians
- Adviser to the Managing Director
- Responsible for overseas tours of the orchestra

**Qualifications**

- Academic degree
- Vast, formal knowledge in the field of orchestral music
- Proven organizational abilities, including production experience
- Knowledge of spoken and written Hebrew and English
- Good personal relations
- Working experience of computers
- Willing to work long and unconventional hours

Salary - negotiable


Please send applications and C.V. to:  
The Managing Director, POB 4640, Jerusalem 91040

# JERUSALEM CORRIDOR EMERGENCY APPEAL

Support The Jerusalem Post Funds Emergency Appeal to restore the communities and forests of the Jerusalem corridor. The appeal will run until Tu BiShvat, February 5, 1996.

### THE PROBLEM:

The fire, last summer, the worst in the country's history, devastated the Jerusalem Corridor, destroyed dozens of homes, community properties and businesses, killed hundreds of animals, domestic and wild, injured nearly fifty people, and ravaged thousands of dunams of prime forest between Sha'ar Hagai and Neve Ilan. Some 2 million trees were destroyed, and the forests - some planted even before the founding of the State - will take decades to return to their former glory.



ISRAEL SUN

### THE SOLUTION:

We appeal to our readers and friends around the world to rush donations as quickly as possible, so that they can be used in the great rebuilding plans now being implemented for this area. The management of The Jerusalem Post Funds is allocating monies to help Shoshon and Neve Ilan rebuild community projects but millions of shekels are needed to clear the devastated areas, rebuild and repair the picnic and leisure sites, and plant trees. We appeal for your support.

Send checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds/Emergency Appeal, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B 81, Jerusalem 91000. Or phone, or mail a VISA credit card donation to Fax. 02-241212. More information from Beverlee Black, 02-233986.

مركز من القدس



